COMMANDERS DIGEST

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SecDef Sees Need for Increase In U.S. Strength in Vietnam

An additional 20,000 to 30,000 U.S. troops will be sent to Vietnam in about the next 90 days before any new program of personnel strength takes effect, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said July 12 after meeting with President Johnson and other members of the Cabinet.

He noted there are about 480,000 U.S. military personnel authorized for assignment to Vietnam at present and there are between 450,000 to 460,000 men there now. Also, there are about 40,000 U.S. Navy personnel operating off the coast of Vietnam and 35,000 to 40,000 personnel in Thailand.

"I think more U.S. military personnel will be required," the secretary said, but he is not sure how many.

He explained, "I am certain of one thing: that we must use more effectively the personnel that are presently there."

There are more than 1.3 million Free World forces now in Vietnam comprising the Vietnamese, the Koreans, the Australians, the New Zealanders, the Filipinos, and the U.S.

Although the decision, particularly to the number of U.S. troops, has not yet been made, Secretary McNamara said, "I think I can tell you I foresee no need to call the Reserve to meet the currently anticipated future requirements."

Marine Corps Cuts Time For Promotion to Captain

A Marine Corps selection board convened July 6 to select first lieutenants with a date of rank of July 1, 1967 or earlier for promotion.

Under a stepped-up promotion program designed to meet the pressing need for Marine captains in Vietnam, the board is authorized to select up to 98 percent of the officers in the zone.

The increase in promotions came following an executive order signed by President Johnson which will allow the Navy to promote Marines to captain after one year in grade as first lieutenant. Prior to the President's order, a Marine lieutenant had to serve two years in grade before becoming eligible for promotion.

TOP-LEVEL MEETING — Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations (Designate), left, is greeted by Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and RAdm. Kenneth L. Veth, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, upon his arrival at Saigon's air terminal. Adm. Moorer was on an orientation tour of Navy commands in the Western Pacific prior to assuming his new duties as Chief of Naval Operations.

Overseas Deposit Program Reaches $113 Million Mark

Active duty U.S. military personnel overseas have deposited more than $113 million in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program.

The figure includes deposits through May. The average account per subscriber was $806.

Personnel in the Southeast Asia area accounted for approximately 40 percent, or $45 million of the total deposits.

Fourteen percent of all eligible personnel now subscribe in the savings program. This is compared to only 2.1 percent at the end of last September.

The program was established under authority of P.L. 89-538, approved Aug. 14, 1966. It is aimed primarily at reducing the U.S. deficit in the international balance of payments.

President Johnson has prescribed that amounts deposited under the program shall earn interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, compounded quarterly. The rate is applicable to accounts of $10,000 or less.

Washington Memos

DOD HAS REQUESTED the Selective Service System to provide 25,000 inductees in September for assignment to the Army. This is second highest draft call this year. Officials said September request supports previously planned and announced force levels and will assure a timely flow of replacements for men completing their terms of service. August call is 29,000.

ELEVEN SHORE Commands were added to Service Force, Pacific Fleet, July 1, consolidating logistic support assets of Pacific Fleet. Commands are: Naval Base, Subic Bay, Philippines; Naval Stations Subic Bay, Guam, San Diego, Long Beach, San Francisco, and Pearl Harbor; Naval Facility Chi Chi Jima; Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan, and Fleet Activities Ryukyus.

ARMY ENLISTED PERSONNEL in grades E-4 through E-7 may apply for enrollment in Ft. Sill Artillery Drill Sergeant School. Applicants should have primary MOS of 13B, 13D, 13E, 15B, 15E, or 82C. Artillery Drill Sergeant Program trains selected personnel for duty as drill sergeants in Advanced Individual Training Program at Ft. Sill, Okla. Additional information can be obtained from CONARC Reg. 350-12 and CONARC Reg. 760-5. Personnel action requests should be submitted through command channels.

NAVY'S WAVES ARE celebrating Silver Anniversary this year with largest class—86—ever to report to Women Officer School in Newport. Officials said new large class is Waves' answer to President Johnson's desire for greater utilization of women in military services. Navy has ordered 20 percent increase in Wave strength over present 6,000 level.

NATION'S NEWEST flight research vehicle has been designated X-24. Aircraft is a piloted, flatiron-shaped, wingless lifting body powered by a rocket engine. Vehicle will explore flight envelope and speed regimes of rocket-powered, lifting body experimental aircraft as part of joint Air Force/NASA lifting body program.

NAVY SAYS IF strike at Newport News Naval Shipyard continues for an appreciable time, work on ships there will be affected to a certain extent. Twelve ships are undergoing construction at shipyard, among them recently-commissioned aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy and a number of attack submarines.

MARINE CORPS HAS announced selection of four more schools for Marine Corps Junior ROTC units scheduled to be activated in September. Schools are: El Rancho High School, Pico Rivera, Calif; Seneca High School, Louisville, Ky; Tolleson Union High School, Tolleson, Ariz.; and Campbell Union High School District, San Jose, Calif. Marine Corps is still seeking applications from retired Marine officers and enlisted men to fill instructor billets at the units.

TWO MEMBERS OF Military Academy's 1968 class have volunteered to spend part of leave time during summer working in State Department's internship program. Cadets John T. Martin III and Peter P. Wallace are currently in middle of two-month program which provides opportunities for young people to work in office of State Department while learning about government policy-making, and execution through a series of briefings, lectures and tours.

IN A MESSAGE to Marine Corps District Directors July 10, Commandant of Marine Corps, Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., said Marine Corps Reserve members may participate in public events in uniform only when in a duty status or otherwise authorized by proper authority. He said they may participate independently in public events when acting as private citizens and are not in uniform or in a duty status.

TWENTY-FOUR SHIPS and 18 aircraft of Atlantic Fleet are participating in combined antisubmarine and mine warfare exercise off eastern seaboard. Named Operation Plumb Bob III, exercise is headed by VAdm. C. E. Weakley, Atlantic Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Force Commander. VAdm. A. McB. Jackson, Commander Eastern Sea Frontier, is directing defense force.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL awards have been presented to six major commands and 28 subordinate Air Force organizations for outstanding achievement in furthering ground safety objectives. Sixteen of the recipients received the Award of Honor, the council's highest recognition for ground safety activities.

PIONEER VI AND VII spacecraft are making the first detailed inspection of the side of the Sun not visible from the Earth. Their reports are providing the first regular information on the Sun to the U.S. solar weather forecasting agency.

531ST TACTICAL FIGHTER Squadron has flown more than 10,000 combat sorties since arriving in Vietnam more than a year and a half ago. "Ramrods" also boast more than 14,000 combat hours since their arrival in Vietnam.

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL returning from Vietnam through aerial port of Cam Ranh Bay Air Base for separation are being processed through McChord AFB, Wash. Processing is completed within 36 hours. About 250 men are expected to be separated through McChord facilities each month.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

CRISIS IN THE CONGO*

The spotlight of world attention is once again focused on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (capital: Kinshasa — formerly Leopoldville). Early this month a mutiny reportedly led by mercenaries erupted in the northeastern area.

Listed below are significant events which have marked the turbulent history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo leading up to the current crisis.

The Congo achieved independence in 1960, after 85 years of Belgian rule. Peaceful independence lasted only one week. The Congolese Army mutinied, and Belgian troops intervened to protect the lives of Belgian nationals. On July 11, 1960, Moise Tshombe, President of the Province of Katanga, proclaimed that province an independent country. On the same day the Congo Central Government requested U.N. assistance.

The U.N.'s mission in the Congo was to aid the national security forces in maintaining order, protect the integrity of the Congo, and provide technical assistance.

As a consequence of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's unwillingness to cooperate with the U.N. and his unilateral dealings with the Soviets, he was dismissed as Prime Minister in September 1960, by President Joseph Kasavubu.

A military coup d'état followed, led by Colonel Joseph Mobutu, who suspended Parliament, and ejected the Soviet and bloc diplomats and technicians who had flocked to the Congo at Lumumba's invitation. In early December Lumumba was imprisoned by Mobutu. Lumumba's escape and later his death under mysterious circumstances in February 1961 plunged the Congo once more into internal strife.

Katanga Secession

A series of conferences of Congolese leaders failed to persuade Mr. Tshombe to end his secession. In September 1961, hostilities broke out in Elisabethville. U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was killed in an airplane accident while trying to arrange a cease-fire. The fighting ended when Mr. Tshombe finally signed an agreement which declared the secession at an end. Later Mr. Tshombe claimed the agreement was not valid until approved by the Katanga Assembly.

Civil war again appeared imminent. U.N. Secretary-General U Thant elaborated a plan providing for an equitable resolution of the differences between the Katanga and the rest of the Congo. The plan, which was supported by most of the countries of the free world with an interest in the Congo, was accepted by both Prime Minister Cyrille Adoula and Tshombe.

Little progress took place in implementing the plan, however. After a 6-day period during which Katanga troops fired on U.N. positions, the U.N. moved to restore order, and by January 21, 1963 had established a presence in all the major centers of Katanga.

The Central Government adopted a conciliatory approach toward reintegration of the Katanga. A major effort was made to reconstruct the Congolese economy and implement a training program for the Congolese Army.

During the winter of 1963-64, rebellion against the Central Government broke out in *Kwilu* Province. By mid-February 1964 it had been confined to a relatively small area.

However, tribal discontent erupted into open rebellion in the *Kivu* in April 1964.

U.N. Withdrawal

With the withdrawal of U.N. troops on June 30, 1964, rebel forces gained military victories throughout the eastern Congo. In September, however, the Central Government forces, aided by mercenaries, recaptured most of the major towns in *ex-Orientale*.

On July 10, 1964, Moise Tshombe was appointed Prime Minister. His success in enlisting outside military support and his appeal to the Congolese people enabled him to prosecute the battle against the rebels. By the spring of 1965, the main thrust of the rebellion had been dissipated. After 15 months in office, Tshombe, always a controversial figure, was removed by President Kasavubu.

On November 25, 1965, Mobutu and senior army officers executed a bloodless coup and Mobutu named himself President for a 5-year period.

U.S. Policy

On July 6, 1967, a State Department spokesman described the official U.S. position as follows: **"The United States Government supports the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as it has consistently done in the past, in that government's search for stability and peace. It—the U.S. Government—strongly condemns the actions of those who can only temporarily impede the forward progress of the Congolese Government under the leadership of President Joseph Mobutu."**

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* *Adapted from State Department Background Notes —Congo, Publication No. 7793.*

Savings Bond Sales Up $19 Million in June

Public holdings of Series E and H Savings Bonds gained $92 million in June, a net increase at cost price of $19 million, according to Treasury Dept. figures.

Cash sales of Series E and H Bonds during the month totaled $408 million, while redemptions at cost price were $390 million. Series E Bond sales totaled $382 million for June, the highest for that specific month since 1945 and a 5 percent gain over a year ago.

For the first six months of 1967, sales of E and H Bonds amounted to more than $2.6 billion, compared to slightly less for the first half of 1966. This represents a 4.2 percent gain.

Sales of Freedom Shares, the new savings plan available only to bond-buyers enrolled in a regular plan, totaled $1.5 million for May and June. Officials said, however, that because of the normal delay between sign-up and issuance, sales have yet to be credited to more than 450,000 payroll savers who have signed up for the Bond/Freedom Share combination since May 1.

The cash value of E and H Bonds outstanding at the end of June was more than $50.8 billion. A year ago the figure was nearly $49.7 billion.

Army Plans MOS Survey

Army plans to question personnel on their military occupational specialties so the Office of Personnel Operations can get an up-to-date picture of all tasks performed.

Representative enlisted and officer personnel will be asked about the jobs they perform and the skills and abilities required to accomplish the assigned mission.

The questions will be developed by CONARC schools and information gained will become part of the Army's new Military Occupational Specialty Data Bank. The Bank is a fully automated system of job analysis to keep the Army apprised of various specialities and those skills and abilities required to perform the jobs.

MISSION PLANNING — Army Col. Cecil W. Hospelhorn, left, Tuy Hoa sub area commander, discusses an upcoming mission with Air Force Maj. Robert J. Sypek of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tuy Hoa AB. Col. Hospelhorn flew in the back seat of Maj. Sypek's F-100 Supersabre during a combat sortie to familiarize himself with the Air Force mission at Tuy Hoa.

Medal of Honor Awarded Posthumously To Army Sergeant

An Army fire team leader, Sgt. James W. Robinson, received a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor July 12.

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor, acting for the President, presented the nation's highest tribute to Sgt. Robinson's father in ceremonies at the Pentagon.

Sgt. Robinson was cited for action against the Viet Cong on April 11, 1966. After dragging three wounded men to safety and saving their lives with first aid, Sgt. Robinson was wounded by enemy fire.

When his ammunition was expended he seized two grenades and charged an enemy machine gun position. He was wounded three more times but still managed to throw the grenades, destroying the enemy position before he died.

AF Laboratory Tests Nuclear Fallout Detector

The Air Force Weapons Laboratory at Kirtland AFB, N.M., is testing and evaluating a prototype nuclear fallout detection system which can monitor radiation levels in an area as large as 300 miles.

Comprised of eight detectors, the system radios radiation measurements to a central monitoring station automatically and on command.

Developed under contract with Tracerlab, Richmond, Calif., a division of Laboratory for Electronics Inc., the detectors can operate from batteries in case of a power failure and can transmit radio signals up to 10 miles, according to nuclear engineers at the Weapons Laboratory's Nuclear Power Branch.

Officials at the Weapons Laboratory said the new system makes it possible for an air base to receive accurate, immediate information in case of nuclear attack, and to identify those locations on the base where radiation is most intense. The system will detect and indicate dose rates from 10 milliroentgens to 5,000 roentgens per hour, officials said.

Navy Corsair II Jets Try New Navigational Aid

A new navigational aid—a roller map which moves in proportion to the flight of the aircraft—is now being used in Navy A-7A Corsair II aircraft.

The roller map provides the pilot with a continuous visual indication of his prearranged flight path and eliminates the need to refer to maps held on his knees.

It will be of particular benefit to pilots of single seat aircraft flying at high speeds close to the ground.

The device was designed and developed for the Naval Air Systems Command by Applied Science Industries, Inc., and LTV Aerospace Corp., producer of the A-7A.

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